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POUCHED ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CA

SUBJ: TRUDEAU FRENCH LANGUAGE RADIO AND TV INTERVIEW DEVOTED
LARGELY TO BILINGUALISM

1. SUMMARY: IN HOUR-LONG FRENCH LANGUAGE BROADCAST JULY 9, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU STRESSED SUCCESS OF BILINGUALISM AS A KEY TO THE FUTURE OF A UNIFIED CANADA. HE EMPHASIZED NECESSITY THAT BILINGUALISM TAKE HOLD IN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC IF IT IS TO SUCCEED IN THE COUNTRY AT LARGE. IN STRONG TERMS, TRUDEAU DENOUNCED QUEBEC TREND TOWARDS FRENCH UNILINGUALISM AND WAS CRITICAL IN THIS REGARD OF QUEBEC PROVINCIAL EFFORTS SUCH AS BILL 22. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SOMBER HOUR-LONG QUESTION AND ANSWER PROGRAM OVER FRENCH-LANGUAGE RADIO AND TV JULY 9, PM TRUDEAU DEALT AT LENGTH WITH BILINGUALISM ISSUE AND ITS ROLE AS A KEY TO CANADA'S FUTURE. JOURNALIST QUESTIONERS WERE MICHEL ROY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LEDEVOIR; CLAUDE BEAUCHAME, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE QUEBEC DAILY LE SOLEIL, AND LAURENT LAPLANTE, EDITORIAL WRITER WITH THE SEPARATIST DAILY LE JOUR.

3. TRUDEAU ASSERTED THAT ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADA HAS NOT YET UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR BILINGUALISM WHILE
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FRENCH CANADA HAS MOVED INCREASINGLY TOWARDS FRENCH UNI-

LINGUALISM. PRESCRIPTION FOR BOTH UNFORTUNATE TRENDS, IN TRUDEAU'S VIEW, MUST BE A CAMPAIGN BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE WHY BILINGUALISM IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO HOLD THE COUNTRY TOGETHER. AS HE PUT IT, "I THINK THAT, FROM THE FEDERAL VANTAGE POINT, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO BACK TO EXPLAINING WHY BILINGUALISM IS THE ONLY POSSIBLE POLICY IF WE WANT TO AVOID THE SEPARATION OF THE COUNTRY."

4. TRUDEAU STRESSED THE NEED FOR BILINGUALISM TO TAKE HOLD IN QUEBEC AND ONTARIO IF IT IS TO SUCCEED AT ALL IN CANADA. AND HE CAME DOWN PARTICULARLY HARD ON QUEBEC PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES FOR ENCOURAGING FRENCH UNILINGUALISM THROUGH MEASURES SUCH AS QUEBEC'S BILL 22. NOT MINCING WORDS, HE STATED THAT, "FROM THE MOMENT QUEBEC SAYS IT WILL BE FRENCH IN QUEBEC AND ENGLISH EVERYWHERE ELSE, I SAY THAT FROM THAT MOMENT IT'S THE END OF THIS COUNTRY."

5. COMMENT: COMMENTATORS VIEW TRUDEAU PRESENTATION AS PART OF HIS BILINGUALISM OFFENSIVE IN QUEBEC. ALTHOUGH TRUDEAU DID NOT MENTION QUEBEC PREMIER BOURASSA'S NAME SPECIFICALLY IN JULY 9 INTERVIEW, BOURASSA AND QUEBEC PROVINCIAL LIBERALS QUITE CLEARLY A TARGET OF TRUDEAU'S CRITICISM.
ENDERS

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